

T.J. Kurdle
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1098
private, 1907

Statement of Significance

The former T.J. Kurdle building was built in 1907 as part of the meat-packing enterprise started by one of Baltimore's most successful butchers. In 1919, the Kurdle Company consolidated with the Schluderb rg Packing Company to form the city's largest and most successful meat-packing firms, Esskay. Although greatly altered on the first floor, this small structure retains much of its original lively character which reflected the spirit of its innovative and ambitious owner, Thomas J. Kurdle.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic T.J. Kurdle Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4020 E. Lombard

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Thomas J. Comi

street & number 4020 E. Lombard

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber JFC-2240

street & number Calvert & Fayette Sts. folio 160

city, town Baltimore

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-1098

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This 1907 meat packing complex illustrates the impact of the railroad on the location of some Baltimore industries. Thomas Kurdle's operation was constructed next to the railroad to receive livestock from Pennsylvania and Maryland farms. A small establishment, it had no room for expansion on this site and was sold when Shluderberg and Kurdle consolidated.

The main building of this complex is the commercial structure facing Lombard Street. Built in a neo-classical period, it still retains the influence of the romantic German traditions of the late nineteenth century, especially in the steep gabled parapet wall. Slaughtering and butchering took place in a series of two -story additions in the rear.

The buildings were converted to other commercial and residential uses long ago. The Lombard Street facade has been radically altered at the first floor level.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1098

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The former T.J. Kurdle building was built in 1907 as part of the meat-packing enterprise started by one of Baltimore's most successful butchers. In 1919, the Kurdle Company consolidated with the Schluderberg Packing Company to form the city's largest and most successful meat-packing firms, Esskay. Although greatly altered on the first floor, this small structure retains much of its original lively character which reflected the spirit its innovative and ambitious owner, Thomas J. Kurdle.

The T.J. Kurdle building was constructed in 1907 as part of the large meat slaughtering and packing operations of Thomas J. Kurdle, one of Baltimore's most successful meat retailers. Mr. Kurdle had opened his first butcher shop in downtown Baltimore in 1880, and by the turn of the century owned a chain of five stores around the city. In 1901 he decided to go into the meat-packing end of the trade, and built plants on Eastern Avenue and Fleet Streets in Highlandtown to house his new operations. By 1907 he had added new facilities, like this site, to accomodate the growing size of operations and the growing number of employees. By this time Mr. Kurdle's sons, Joseph, Albert, Henry and Thomas Jr. were assisting their father in managing the growing company. In 1919, the family consolidated their meat-packing and retail operations with those of the William Schluderberg family who also owned a large Highlandtown meat-packing business. The enterprise which was born was the William F. Schluderberg-T.J. Kurdle Company, now better known as the Esskay Company, Baltimore's largest and oldest meat packing firm.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1098

Esskay archives

"A Century of Progress," (company history, printed privately, 1958)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Steele, Dennis Zembala

organization Baltimore Museum of Industry date May, 1983

street & number 1415 Key Highway telephone 301-727-4808

city or town Baltimore, state Maryland 21230

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1. SITE ID. NO

B-1098

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

manufacture

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES☒ NO☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

1907

6. GOVT. SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER ADMIN

Shludenberg-Kurdle Co.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

T.J. Kurdle Building

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

10. STATE

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.

DIST

STATE

COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY

CONG.

DIST

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

12. EXISTING
SURVEYS☐ NR☐ NHL☐ HABS☐ HAER-I☐ HAER☐ NPS☐ CL6☐ CONF☐ STATE☐ COUNTY☐ LOCAL☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

☐ INTERIOR INTACT☐ EXTERIOR INTACT☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☒ 1:24☐ 1:62.5QUAD
NAME

Balto. East

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☐ 1:24☐ 1:62.5QUAD
NAME

15. CONDITION

70 ☐ EXCELLENT71 ☐ GOOD72 ☐ FAIR73 ☐ DETERIORATED74 ☐ RUINS75 ☐ UNEXPLORED76 ☒ ALTERED82 ☐ DESTROYED85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Ann Steele

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

DATE

Aug. 1983

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS,
MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

See attached

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

PRESENT USE

Commercial

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Esskay company pamphlet

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000
POP. OR MORE?☒ YES ☐ NO

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☒ YES LIMITED☐ NO☐ YES UNLIMITED☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

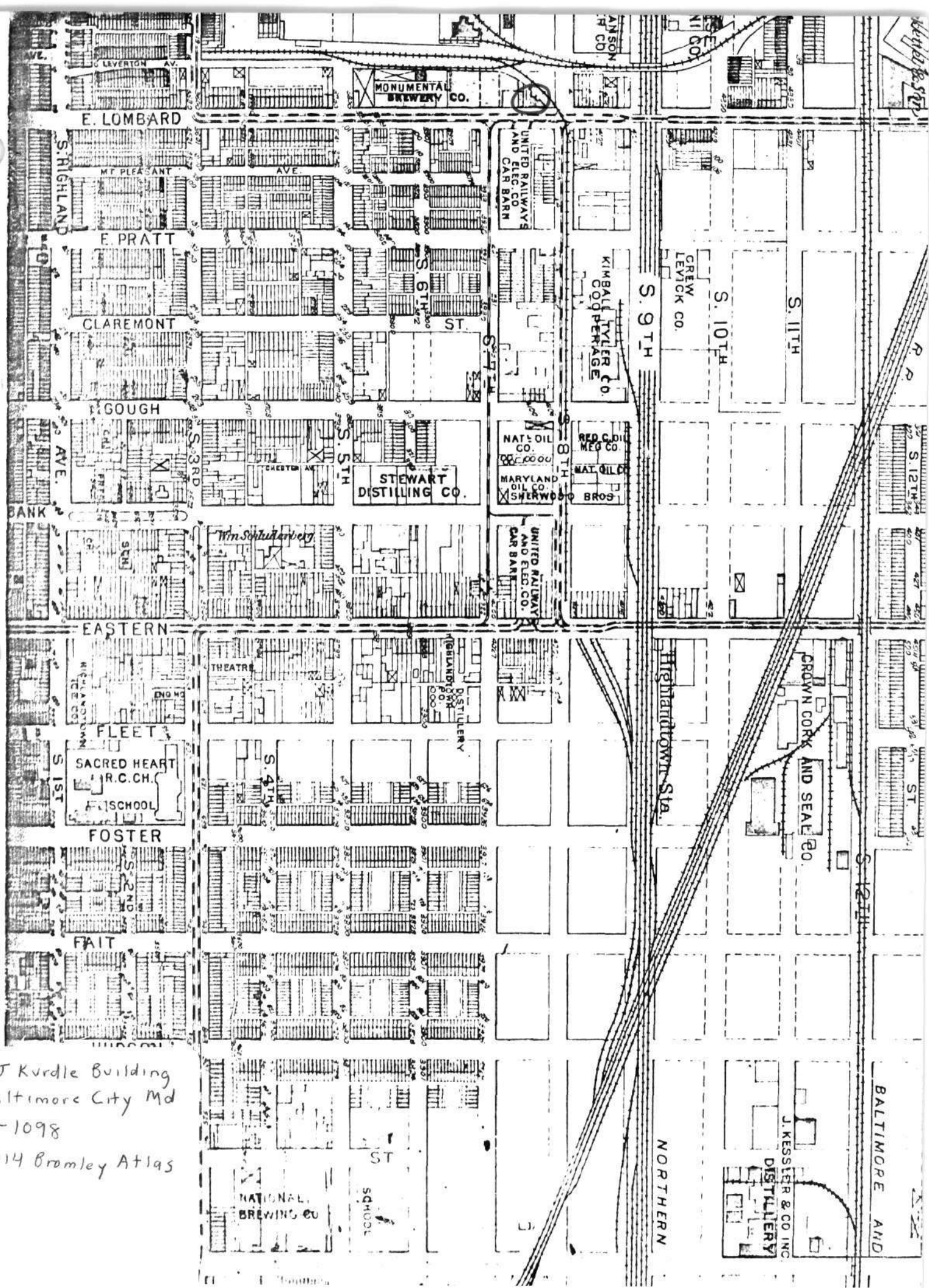
INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES☒ NO

NAME

DISTRICT ID. NO.



TJ Kurdle Building
Baltimore City Md
B-1098
1914 Bromley Atlas

T.J. Kurlie Building
Baltimore City, Md
USGS 7.5" Balto East
18³ 65120⁴ 3 51980





T.J. Kurlle Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Peter Liebhold 8/83

B-1098

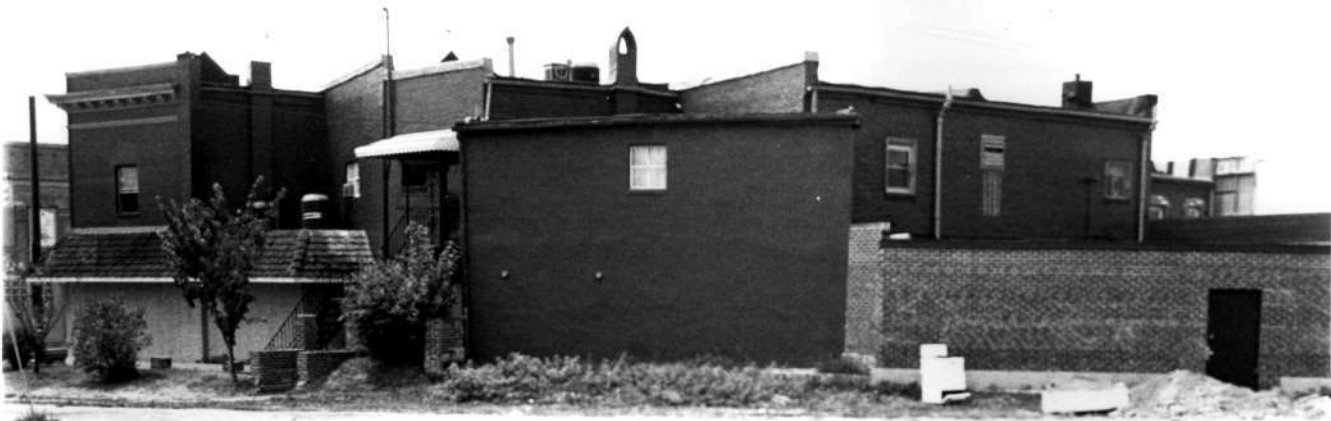
Looking N.W. from Haven and Lombard
Sts. at facade of Building



T.J. Kurlle Company
Baltimore City, MD
Peter Liebhold 8/83

B-1098

Looking West from Lombard & Haven
Sts.



3
T.J. Kirdle Company
Baltimore City, MD
Peter Liebhold 8/83

B-1098

Looking South at the Rear of Building